

2011-2012 Weekly Field Reports

Copacabana, King George Island

Volume 19
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Science Report:

1. **Penguins:** This week we set up a Reconix camera designed to stay up throughout the winter to record the daily movements of gentoo penguins on Copa Beach. The camera will take a series of photos at sunrise, noon, and sunset to capture the birds' diel movement patterns as they leave and return from foraging trips throughout the winter months.
2. **Skuas:** This year, only 30% of the 23 brown skua pairs that bred have chicks, with a fledging success of approximately 0.39 chicks per nest, well below the 15-year average of 0.65. None of the south polar pairs or mixed pairs of skuas (south polar, brown, or hybrid skua combinations) that bred successfully fledged chicks.
3. **Seals:** We conducted a census of seals from Copa to Point Thomas on Sunday (2/26) and found 20 fur seals and 5 unknown/juvenile elephant seals.

Weather:

The weather was relatively calm and sunny throughout the week with short periods of 15-20 mph winds. Temperatures remained cold, ranging from 30-34° F.

Other Camp News:

We continued entering and archiving the data we collected over the season.

We completed repainting the outside of the main hut and the outhouse.

We are sorry to report that on Saturday (2/25), the Brazilian Ferraz Station, located seven miles from Copa across Admiralty Bay, caught fire due to a generator malfunction and burned to the ground. Two Brazilian military officers were killed and one badly injured. All other inhabitants were evacuated by helicopter to the Chilean Frei Station on the southern end of King George Island, where they will board planes to return South America.

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